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Selectmen's Minutes 03-06-2006

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, March 6, 2006
 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Hurd, Chair, Mrs. Dias, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, and Ms. LaCourt.

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Sullivan.

Absent: Mr. Greeley

Department Heads present: Mr. Byrne, Mr. O'Brien, Chief McEwen, Mr. Marlenga, Ms. Loud, Mrs. Malloy, Mrs. Kraemer, Ms. Connolly, Mr. Sanchez, Chief Ryan, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Fantini.

The Department Heads reported their FY2007 budgets to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Sullivan requested they address the services that would be provided within the proposed budget, services not able to be provided but are important, the service impact if a 10% decrease occurs, the service impact if a 10% increase occurs, and anticipated issues over the next 5 years that would impact operations and/or budget requirements.

After the presentations the Selectmen made comments and requests regarding different points.

Ms. LaCourt commented:

- Several Departments commented on a need for a public relations liaison and/or a customer service liaison- Ms. LaCourt suggests they should work together to utilize the same liaison.
- Mr. Marlenga should consider implementing Workers Comp training and awareness and track it to see if it pays for itself.
- Mr. Sanchez should consider 1) getting private donations to pay for the Holiday lighting and 2) implementing a recycling coordinator and track it to see if it pays for itself.
- Chief Ryan's budget is totally under funded and suggested an analysis of reducing overtime and adding staff instead.
- Ms. Loud should utilize a community wide process to secure an endowment in order to not be at the mercy of budget constraints.
- Ms. Lewis should consider an automated phone system it could be possibly a great time and money saver.

Mrs. Mahon commented:

- Overall that core value decisions must be decided before extras (such as public relations /customer service liaisons) can be decided in this budget process.
 - Mrs. Mahon requested that Mrs. Lewis get a final report from TCM.
 - Mr. Sanchez should consider not raising field user fees for maintenance because of the already high fees these groups are paying.
 - Chief Ryan and Chief McEwen should report on their 3-5 year ALS plan and utilize the EMT list for a shorter and quicker training period.
 - Ms. Loud should consider increasing the special needs program offerings within the library, possibly through grant monies.
 - Ms. Kraemer should consider not raising fees to program participants/user fees and work on cutting expenses elsewhere.
- Mrs. Mahon requested a more detailed analysis of the Park and Recreation Department's revenues and expenses.

Mr. Hurd commented:

- Thank you to all Department Heads for their presentations and that Mr. Sullivan's analysis of the 10% decrease and increase and how it relates to services was a good approach.
- Mr. Hurd asked Mr. Byrne/Building Department if the Symmes project would affect the current responsibilities? Mr. Byrne

responded that with the fees from the permits drawn on the Symmes project additional temporary personnel would be hired.

- Mr. Sullivan should research new energy opportunities due to the significant increase in energy costs.
- Mr. Hurd acknowledged the great work Town employees do and that the Town is doing more with less money. He is disturbed at the 1% salary increase and would like Mr. Sullivan to work on increasing this percentage increase. Mr. Sullivan responded that if he is able to save money in healthcare than he would put the money back into the operating budget to increase salaries.
- Mr. Hurd stated it is important to continue communicating with legislatures to recapture the \$3.3 million dollars cut from a couple of years ago. Currently Arlington has recouped \$1 million back from the State aid for this year.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

SO MOVED (4-0)

A True Record: Attest:

Mary Ann Sullivan